

## SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Minutes

### SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 6

☞ Day One ☞

**Wednesday 21 April 2021 10:00am – 5:00pm**

**Boardroom Railway Station Port Augusta SA**

Attendees:	Ross Sawers - Chair Douglas Lillecrapp – Board Member (10:00am to 3:00pm via MS Teams) Ellen Litchfield – Board Member Kurt Tschirner – Board Member Sanchia Treloar – Board Member Scott Michael – Board Member Tim Flowers – Board Member Jodie Gregg-Smith – General Manager (GM) Anne Dickin - Executive Officer (EO)
Guests:	John Virtue - General Manager Strategy and Policy - Invasive Species, PIRSA Giverny Rodgers - Biosecurity Policy Officer, PIRSA Leanne Muffet – Managing Director, Strategic Matters (via MS Teams)
Staff as required	Michelle Smith - Manager Business Support Greg Patrick - Team Leader Landscape Operations & Projects Cherie Gerlach - Team Leader Communications & Community Engagement Alison Skinner - Project Officer Planning & Evaluation
Apologies:	Nil

1010 Chair opened the meeting with nil apologies **noted**.

Meeting agenda **accepted**.

Conflicts of interest disclosed by board members and **noted**:

Ellen Litchfield	Working with 'Farmers for Climate Action' nation-wide organisation based in NSW.
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Ellen Litchfield	Feral goats held on family property which are then sold.
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Kurt Tschirner	Will abstain from voting on sponsorship application for Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation, as partner Andrea Tschirner is to be a paid presenter at the Nukunu Kid's Weekend event.
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Scott Michael	Feral goats held on properties owned by board member which are then sold.
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Ross Sawers	Working with carbon farming group 'A1 Carbon Integrated Carbon Australia'.
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Ross Sawers	Feral goats held on property owned by board member which are then sold.
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Sanchia Treloar	Feral goats held on property owned by board member which are then sold.
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SAAL Landscape Board meeting 5 24-25 February 2021 minutes **accepted** as a correct record.

Board Action List reviewed, updated and **accepted**.

Correspondence report **noted**.

1015 *At this time Michelle Smith joined the meeting.*

Chair of Governance and Finance Committee (GFC) spoke to the recommendations proposed by the GFC for approval by the full board.

7.1 Final Board Budget 2021/22

Board was advised that the 'draft' business plan has been prepopulated based on the final board budget 2021/22 figures.

2021/22 board budget **endorsed**.

7.2 Financial Overview

Board was advised of the delay in receiving clarification of how to record staff leave and workers compensation provisions on the cash flow financial report however it was now being followed up with a new contact person and the report will be provided to the board as soon as the issue is resolved.

Financial overview and associated reports **noted**.

7.3 Financial Delegations 2020/21

Board was advised instruments of authorisation for financial delegation of contract prepayments and purchase cards were required due to staff transitioning from DEW to the board.

Presiding Member to sign instruments of authorisation for 'Procurement - Contract Pre-Approval - Procurement - Payment and Disbursement'; 'Corporate Authorisation and Contract Execution – Purchase Cards' **approved**.

7.4 Work Health and Safety

Work Health and Safety report **noted**.

7.5 Governance and Finance Committee Meeting Overview and Recommendations

**It was agreed to:**

- **Note** minutes of GFC meeting held 10 February 2021;
- **Adopt** 'Board Policy Guidelines';
- **Note** information provided in workforce management briefing and **support** conversion to ongoing from 1 July 2021 of four identified roles:
  1. Sustainable Landscape Project Officer,
  2. Team Leader Communications and Community Engagement,
  3. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and
  4. Communications Support Project Officer;

**It was also noted** that the same public sector conditions attached to those who transitioned across from DEW, requiring conversion of contract staff to an ongoing position within five years of service is not applicable for staff joining the Board since the transition of staff from DEW.

- **Note** nil Contracts or Grants executed during the reporting period;

- **Approve** sponsorship of \$7,000 to Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation for Nukunu Kid's Weekend event in June 2021.

*Chair of GFC abstained from voting on sponsorship application due to conflict of interest declared at the commencement of this meeting.*

Discussion was held on the process of communicating other channels of funding to the community if the provision for sponsorship is not approved by the board.

- Related Party Transactions report **noted**;

- Verbal accommodation update **noted**.

**Action:** Update policy register following adoption of Board Policy Guidelines.

**Action:** Inform CLO \$7,000 sponsorship to Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation for Nukunu Kid's Weekend event in June 2021 approved by the board.

**Action:** Check sponsorship policy for inclusion of other funding sources available in lieu of sponsorship e.g. Landscape Group project; Grassroots Grants.

1058 *At this time Michelle Smith left the meeting and a short break was taken.*

1110 *At this time Aaron Smith joined the meeting.*

1110 9. Water Advisory Committee Overview

Board was provided with an overview of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting of 30 March 2021 and the Water Accounting Trial workshop held on Tuesday 20 April 2021; and the opportunity to raise queries on both.

Potential budget risk was highlighted for the Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Program (IGABDRP) as funds may not be fully expended by the end of the current financial year, however this is the responsibility of DEW and the Board personnel are doing everything within their influence to ensure maximum uptake in the program.

Water Advisory Committee overview **noted**.

1137 *At this time Aaron Smith left the meeting.*

1138 *In camera item*

1220 *At this time a break was taken for lunch.*

1235 *At this time John Virtue, Giverny Rodgers, Rob Brandle, Alison Skinner, Greg Patrick and Cherie Gerlach joined the meeting.*

1238 10. Feral Goat Workshop with PIRSA

John Virtue and Giverny Rodgers gave a presentation on feral goats that included background information on the topic, a run through of the updated Feral Goat Policy under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the proposed policy options if this was the desire of the board.

It was noted that the current feral goat policy remains unchanged from the NRM Boards review (and NRM Act), with the exception of the references changing from the NRM Act to Landscape Act.

1325	<p>Following the presentation a group discussion took place that included the following:</p> <p>Board should remain open minded and consider alternative solutions to manage feral goats with the concern of what the next generation will be inheriting, and the obligation to improve the environment and health of the landscape.</p> <p>Goal of the board is to reduce the impact of feral goats on the environment and pastoralism and the resulting policy should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART).</p> <p>Need to quantify the impact of feral goats on the environment and measure the goal by the means of science, monitoring, and consider the issues of total grazing pressure of non-domesticated animals, both feral and native.</p> <p>A coordinated control across all properties is required, that could include culling, mustering, fencing and holding goats for six weeks. Need to assess if these actions will contribute to reducing goats in the landscape.</p> <p>Further discussion was held on priority areas (hot spots); validating the Flinders Ranges Development Plan that prohibited goat to be permitted in any context in that region (high range, inaccessible country may be considered as separate); monitoring for compliance and the long term viability of holding goats due to the damage to the environment. A working group to implement and address the knowledge gaps is a consideration.</p> <p>Consensus on how to move forward on goat management was reached, and support to review the feral goat policy so PIRSA can pursue at a state/regional level <b>endorsed</b>.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Collate data on feral goats.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Establish ownership of feral goats (the landholder or the crown and some advice as to the ramifications of this with the various relevant Acts), consider Pastoral Act and how management by landholders intersects with this Act.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Review feral goat policies and provide board with a consolidated version with options that reflect the workshop discussion.</p>
1455	<p><i>At this time a short break was taken and John Virtue, Giverny Rodgers, Rob Brandle and Alison Skinner left the meeting and Leanne Muffet and Michelle Smith joined the meeting.</i></p>
1514	<p>11. <u>Strategic Risk Management</u></p> <p>A follow up session to the risk management workshop held 25 February 2021 was conducted by Leanne Muffet with the board and regional leadership team (RLT).</p> <p>Documentation created from input from the February workshop was worked through with the facilitator highlighting areas requiring further refinement and providing the board and RLT the opportunity to clarify content as required.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Any additional feedback for the risk register, impact and probability matrix, and legal risks are to be provided to the Manager Business Support by board and RLT members prior to 1 June 2021.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Finalise risk management documents for GFC June meeting for final review/edits, endorsement and recommendation for adoption by the board, taking into account written comments provided by Tim Flowers.</p>
1611	<p><i>At this time Leanne Muffet left the meeting and Alison Skinner joined the meeting.</i></p>



- 1612 12. 'Draft' 2021/22 Business Plan
- The board was advised that for the next two financial years the business plan will require ministerial approval however in future years this will not be required. This is because of the equalisation process requiring alignment of the bases upon which the levy is generated from in-council areas.
- It was confirmed that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase is for all levies.
- 1.0% (CPI) increase from 2020/21 levies for 2021/22 **endorsed**.
- Progression of 2021/22 Business Plan without additional consultation **endorsed**.
- 1616 13. Feedback on 'draft' 5-year Regional Landscape Plan
- Stakeholder feedback on the regional landscape plan was reviewed and a response and any amendment to the plan based on feedback was discussed and recorded.
- It was **noted** that the business plan provides greater detail than the regional landscape plan which was in line with the direction provided by the Minister to keep the landscape plan simple and concise.
- The board was advised that an out of session meeting is planned for mid-May 2021 for the final updates and graphic edits of regional landscape and business plans to be approved by the board in readiness for sending to the Minister.
- Feedback received on 'draft' Regional Landscape Plan **noted** and **direction** provided to specific respondents' recommendations.
- 1642 *At this time Alison Skinner, Cherie Gerlach and Michelle Smith left the meeting.*
- 1642 14. Project Status Report
- Project Status Report **noted**.
- 1643 15. Biteback Program Engagement Strategy
- Discussion was held on the value of the Biteback program, a flagship program of the Board which, based on feedback of over 70 survey respondents recently is considered an example of excellent engagement and effective communication to stakeholders.
- Biteback program engagement strategy and landholder survey summary **noted**.
- 1700 Day close

## SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting 6

☞ Day Two ☞

Thursday 22 April 2021 8:30am – 11:00am

Boardroom Railway Station Port Augusta SA

Attendees: Ross Sawers - Chair  
Ellen Litchfield – Board Member  
Kurt Tschirner – Board Member  
Sanchia Treloar – Board Member  
Tim Flowers – Board Member  
Jodie Gregg-Smith – General Manager  
Anne Dickin - Executive Officer

Apologies: Douglas Lillecrapp – Board Member  
Scott Michael – Board Member

Guests: John Virtue - General Manager Strategy and Policy - Invasive Species, PIRSA  
Giverny Rodgers - Biosecurity Policy Officer, PIRSA  
Brad Page - Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals, PIRSA (via MS Teams)

0755 17. General Manager Report

As supported by the board the Presiding Member's and General Manager's reports are to be combined.

In addition to the written report, the General Manager updated the board on the introduction of eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs across Australia as part of the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

General Manager advised that the successful hub in South Australia is University of Adelaide in Roseworthy and will cover SA pastoral low, medium and high rainfall mixed farming lands. Regional Hub nodes (where farmers can connect with drought resilience expertise, and contribute to new technologies and practices) will be located in Minnipa, Orroroo, Loxton, Struan and Port Augusta with funding of \$8m over four years. SAAL has opted in as a key partner in the Port Augusta node and will advocate for a key role in the delivery of the Pastoral Drought Hub given the relationship the board and staff has at a local level with the community across SAAL. More information is unknown at this time given the recentness of the announcement.

Board was advised that an annual performance review is required for the Minister, with landscape boards to each report at the same level/style. Chairs will connect to determine the level of detail for comparable reports at a state level and the Board will be engaged in the proposed development once this is determined.

Presiding Member advised that he witnessed the pleasing results of previous board funding on his recent trip to see the quoll capture and release exercise noting that forty of the ninety quolls captured were next generation animals not caught or microchipped previously. This is a key program funded by the Australian Government NLP program, Bounceback and Beyond.

Presiding Member and General Manager had a tour of Sundrop Farms in Port Augusta with the Port Augusta Coast Care Group with a view to have the whole board visit the complex in the future.

Combined Presiding Member and General Manager report **noted**.

0807 18. Board Member Updates

Tim Flowers provided an update on a Northern Flinders Landscape Group meeting he participated in and advised that he had attended the opening of the new office in Prospect of Nature Foundation.

Kurt Tschirner updated his attendance at the North East Pastoral Landscape Group meeting; advised that the Landcare group is now back together; and he attended as the board's representative, a Kangaroo Management Reference Group meeting.

19. Public Comment

Not applicable.

0815 *At this time Michelle Smith joined the meeting.*

0815 20. *In Camera Item*

0918 *Short break taken while Michelle Smith left and John Virtue, Giverny Rodgers and Brad Page joined the meeting.*

0928 21. Drought Impacts/Recovery and Pest Management Programs Overview

Brad Page, John Virtue and Giverny Rodgers gave a presentation entitled 'Drought Impacts/Recovery and Pest Management Programs Overview' which was followed by a group discussion.

Work currently being carried out on the South Australian Wild Dog Strategic Plan, Wild Dog Policy, and Dog Fence rebuild was **noted**.

1015 *Short break taken as John Virtue, Giverny Rodgers and Brad Page left the meeting.*

1019 22. Meeting Debrief

*Communication*

It was **noted** that a lack of communication had led to misunderstandings in relation to the wild dog trapper with some of the community unaware that the position was only viable while funding had been available.

Discussion was held on communicating board business to the community with the Landscape Groups, identifying champions, and reinforcement of messages via editions of Across the Outback, Facebook and the board website being identified.

1030 23. Any Other Business

*State Landscape Strategy*

Board was advised a state landscape strategy was being developed as part of the Landscape SA reform. This strategy will be overseen by the Landscape Board Chairs. Also minutes of Landscape Board Chairs forums will be shared with board members.

*Succession Planning*

Policy is to be developed for appointing a deputy chair to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. This will assist in the transition of a new Presiding Member for the board when the current Presiding Member leaves in 18 months.

*Performance Review*

Board was advised of a potential methodology to use to conduct a review of board performance which will assist in setting the culture and values and excellence of this board and be benchmarked against other similar organisations.

**Action:** Share option being considered and action out of session.

**Action:** Develop deputy chair policy for board to consider at June 2021 meeting.

**Action:** Prepare potential schedule for future regionally held board meetings.

1135 24. Board Communique

**It was agreed** to include the following items in the board communique:

- Working with PIRSA in relation to feral goats and wild dog management/policy;
- Separation of Landscape Boards from DEW;
- Update on Landscape Plan and Business plan process.

1100 25. Board Member Travel Details

Board members confirmed mileage and travel time to attend the meeting were as per usual.

1100 **Meeting end**

Approved



Date 23 / 06 / 2021

Ross Sawers Chair  
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

**PRIORITY FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

When Identified	Item	RO	Meeting
18 Jun 2020	Board sub-committees undertake full review of sub-committees under the <i>Landscape SA Act 2019</i> .	Chair GM	TBD
Nov 2020	Opportunity for board member to inspect dog fence.	GM	Jun 2021
Feb 2021	Partnership Paper Offsets/SEBs	GM	Apr 2021
Feb 2021	Peak Iron Hawks Nest Project	GM	Jun 2021
Feb 2021	Acquire facilitator for workshop to develop board and staff culture – 6 mthly review cycle	GM	Jun 2021 Dec 2021 Jun 2022 Dec 2022
Feb 2021	Tri-Star Group update to the board on Simpson and Pedirka Basin project	GM	Oct 2021